

ASHEVILLE DAILY CITIZEN.

By RANDOLPH-KERR PRINTING CO.

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Hill's Man? Not Much.

Some of our democratic contemporaries who have been greatly worried because Speaker Crisp was Hill's man, and would not therefore be able to speak his own mind, will have to readjust themselves. Crisp, it was asserted, was in favor of passing a free coinage bill this year and of not passing a general tariff bill; hence Hill must have dictated that policy, and independence was dead or very nearly so. But here comes Hill and out of his mouth he speaks, and he says that he does not advise passing a free coinage bill this session, and that he does not think at all well of attacking the McKinley bill piecemeal.

The fact is, Senator Hill is not a democratic leader yet in national politics, and he probably will not be till he proves himself shrewder than, say, Carlisle and Gorman. And as for Speaker Crisp, give him a little time to show what is in him. He was thought to be one of the most promising legislators while on the floor of the house. THE CITIZEN has lots of faith in him yet.

Rents and Houses.

It is frequently the comment of strangers coming to Asheville from different parts of the country that house rents are high here, and the same comment is occasionally heard from residents whom travel has given the opportunity for making comparison. Persons who have lived in other cities, some of them with every advantage of the best of schools, paved streets, good sidewalks, a great variety of entertainments, and the like, find to their surprise that in Asheville, with few of the attractions enumerated, rents are as high as in all except the very largest cities. With building material and labor as cheap as they are here the prices asked for houses often seem exorbitant.

But it should be remembered that the situation here is somewhat different from the situation in many cities, where the rule is that houses are seldom rented for less than a year, while leases are often taken for several years, thus assuring the owner a steady income on his property. Here in Asheville, we should say, the rule is rather the other way, long leases being the exception, and incomes from rented houses less steady and therefore less profitable.

The complaint, if it is well founded, is one that should cure itself. If rents, all things considered, are higher here than elsewhere capital will in time flow in and lower them. So long, however, as houses rent freely for the prices asked, just so long will those prices remain at the present figures. It is a question of supply and demand.

In some classes of houses Asheville is plainly deficient. One of these is the block of several residences under one roof with all the modern improvements. Such would be very attractive to those from other cities who may stay but a short time, but who prefer not to go to a hotel. Another is the house of three or four rooms, well finished and in a good locality and of comparatively low rent. Our houses of this kind are now mainly built too cheap and in localities not attractive to visitors.

Public Roads and Convicts.

The action of the last legislature of North Carolina in enacting a law whereby certain classes of violators of the law may be put to work upon the public highways of the counties in which their offenses were committed, is one step in the right direction.

There is no way in which the convicts of North Carolina could be utilized with greater benefit to all the people than by putting every man of them to work upon the public roads. In this way they will in no sense come into competition with honest labor, a complaint often heard of late years, and with much reason and justice because it cannot be done without degrading the largest and most deserving portion of our citizenship.

There is not an honest laborer in North Carolina but detests the working of roads, and it is no more than the truth to say that nine out of ten who do work the roads do so under protest, and therefore never do and never will do full and fair work.

And this question of public roads is really the most vital with which the American agriculturalist has to deal today. It has been demonstrated by those making a study of the question, that the farmers of the United States lose more money every year by reason of bad roads, than they pay out in the way of taxes for all purposes.

With the convict force of the state kept constantly at work year by year upon the public highways, upon a fixed plan and in a systematic way, North Carolina farmers in a few years would realize that they were gaining infinitely more than the cost, that of their maintenance.

THE CITIZEN proposes to agitate this question, and endeavor to make it a distinct issue in the election of the next members of our state legislature, and see if it is not possible to inaugurate a system whereby North Carolina may eventually hope to have public roads that will be the pride of the state and the greatest blessing that ever came to the farmer.

And it is hoped that the press will lend their aid. To the press will be attributed this blessing if it ever comes, and to the press we look for the agitation of this question, which may mean more, and will mean more, in the long run, if properly undertaken and systematically prosecuted, than any measure which has engaged the attention of our legislators during the past quarter of a century.

THE LAMP EXPLODED.

—Mount Holly News: On Tuesday night, 15th inst. Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Shivers were chatting when Charley, their son, came up and wanted to know how many presidents there had been of the United States. His father told him to take the lamp and go into another room and bring him Blum's Almanac. Charlie was returning when all were startled by a report as of a gun and Charlie rushed into the room, enveloped flames—the lamp had exploded. His father bravely sprang to him and fought the flames. Charlie was so badly burned that he died three days after.

—Dr. Stephen B. Weeks, late of Johns Hopkins University, is preparing a complete Bibliography of the Historical Literature of North Carolina, with annotations. The work will be invaluable to students of the history of the Southern States, and the publication of so valuable a work is being written. Nothing of the kind has ever before been attempted, and the author and publishers deserve the thanks of all teachers and students for the publication of so valuable a work. The lamp of the publisher, of Durham, is rendering excellent service in many ways to the cause of education in North Carolina. It is published monthly, at one dollar a year.

—Charlotte News: Mr. H. C. Beales, of the Central hotel has received a but-ton of tin from Prof. I. C. Horton, of the King's Mountain Tin Mining company. Heretofore, this company has confined itself solely to taking out tin ore. Now the company is reducing the ore, and the result shows tin. The lump of tin presented to Mr. Beales represents the first pure tin produced from the soil of North Carolina.

—A Goldshire Argus: The firm of W. F. English & Bro., of Mr. Olive, has been forced to make an assignment, by reason of heavy advances during the crop year and poor collections.

Cleveland.

From the New York World.
Mr. Cleveland is the candidate of the anti-politicians, so to speak. He represents ideas, sentiments, aspirations, not organized purpose. Ordinarily such a candidacy for a nomination would be hopeless because organization is supposed usually to count for more than ideas, sentiments and aspirations in nominating conventions. In Mr. Cleveland's case there seems to be a widespread conviction that the rule will not hold good. In spite of the organized hostility to his candidacy, it has been the general expectation that he will receive the nomination.

But that expectation is now somewhat less confident, perhaps, than it was a year ago, or even a month ago.

The Keely Cure and Prohibition.

From an interview with Mr. Keely.
"Moral treatment in inebriety? My dear sir, you might as well give a set of rules to a man who is in need of a shirt as to talk religion to a drunken man who seeks help. He is sick man and must be treated accordingly, and all the advice and moralizing in the world will be absolutely without effect upon him. But I say without the slightest hesitancy that the result of the rapid increase in the number of men who have been cured by the Keely system, means just one thing—prohibition in this country. The prohibition party will soon be like Othello—minus an occupation."

Effect of a Free Silver Plank.

From the Charleston News and Courier.
The Atlanta Journal is talking right on in meeting in a way that must make the heads of some of its more cautious contemporaries fairly swim. "With a free silver plank in the democratic platform," says the Journal, "we might save Georgia to the democracy and come within 50,000 votes of carrying New York." This is a very forcible way of teaching a wholesome political lesson.

To Obtain Relief.

When will the people regain their old habit of advocating practical measures? If they would only do so, and with one voice advocate the repeal of the six cent state bank notes, they could obtain relief. But as long as they set their faces against sensible measures and insist on what congress will not adopt nor the president agree to, they are wasting precious time.

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Ten Dollar Gold Piece for a Cent.

Sometime ago, a gentleman bet that if he stood at the corner of Broadway and Fourteenth street, New York, and offered gold pieces to the passerby for a cent each, he would find no purchasers. The experiment was tried, and it turned out just as he said. No one would believe that the coins were genuine. It seemed too good to be true. An equally remarkable offer is that made by the proprietors of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, the sovereign cure for consumption. Think of it! restoration to life and health for a mere song. There is not a case of lung-scurf—in other words, consumption—that will not yield to it, if it is taken in time. It is the greatest blood purifier ever known, and is guaranteed to benefit or cure in all diseases of the throat and lungs, or money refunded. Only extraordinary curative properties could warrant or sustain its makers in selling it thus, on trial!

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